

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :) Attorney Docket No.: 55536.000009
)
 James D. THACKSTON) Group Art Unit: *Unknown*
)
Continuation of) Examiner: *Unknown*
 Serial No.: 09/410,619)
)
 Filed: July 13, 2001 (herewith))

For: A NETWORK-BASED SYSTEM FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF
 PARTS WITH VIRTUAL COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT
 FOR DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND FABRICATOR SELECTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page, 1, first full paragraph, please delete in its entirety and replace with the paragraph as shown in Attachment A.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-18 and replace with new claims 19-41 as shown in Attachment B.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide reference to the patent applications from which the present application claims priority. Claims 19-41 are directed to additional features of the present invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited.

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If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. In the event it is determined that a fee is necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
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Please delete the first full paragraph, at page 1 of the specification and replace with the following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/410,619, filed October 1, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/270,007, filed March 16, 1999, entitled "Interactive System for Engineering Design and Manufacture," and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/311,150, filed May 13, 1999, entitled "Network Integrated Concurrent Engineering With Computer Aided Design," both of which are herein incorporated by reference.--

ATTACHMENT B

Newly added claims 19-41

--19. A server-based system for a fabricator evaluating detailed instructions contained within a request for a proposal to view a design model, comprising:

a memory for storing the design model provided by a designer seeking a proposal for manufacturing an item represented by the design model, the memory resident at a first location, the designer resident at a second location and the fabricator resident at a third location, where the first location is separate from both the second and third locations; and

a server system for enabling a fabricator connected over a network to access the design model;

the server system having a software component for presenting the design model to the fabricator through the network;

and where the software component is resident at the server system and accessible by the designer at the second location and the fabricator at the third location, and wherein the software component includes a substantially platform independent client side application to be run on the system of the fabricator, where the application permits the manipulation of the design model.

20. The server-based system of claim 19, wherein the manipulation comprises one or more of rotation, translation, two-dimensional cutting and a fly-through.

21. The server-based system of claim 19, wherein the design model comprises a plurality of three-dimensional graphical features which are linked by the server system with at least one of specifications, regulations and standards associated with each of the plurality of features.

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22. The server-based system of claim 21, wherein the software component further provides for the fabricator to select a specific three-dimensional graphical feature in order to view the at least one associated specification, regulations and standard associated with the selected feature.

23. The server-based system of claim 19, wherein the said server system is further adapted to permit the designer to review the accuracy of detailed instructions contained within said request for a proposal.

24. The server based system of claim 19, wherein said software component further enables the fabricator and the designer to engage in a communications session that is substantially real-time.

25. The server based system of claim 24, wherein the communications session comprises one or more of audio and video.

26. The server based system of claim 24, wherein the communications session comprises the simultaneous presentation of the design model to the fabricator and the designer.

27. The server-based system of claim 26, wherein the simultaneous presentation includes the manipulation of the part design model.

28. The server-based system of claim 22, wherein the at least one associated specifications, regulations and standards reside in the server memory and are sent over the network connection to the client-side on demand.

29. The server-based system of claim 23, wherein the design model comprises a plurality of three-dimensional graphical features which are linked by the server system with at least one specification, regulation and standard associated with each feature.

30. The server-based system of claim 19, wherein said software component further provides for the fabricator to select a specific three-dimensional graphical feature in order to view the at least one associated specification, regulation and standard.

31. The server-based system of claim 30, wherein the at least one associated specification, regulation and standard reside in the server memory and are sent over the network connection to the client-side application on demand.

32. A server-based system for a fabricator evaluating detailed instructions to view a design model, comprising:

a memory for storing the design model provided by a designer where an item is represented by the design model, wherein the design model comprises at least one three-dimensional graphical depiction having a plurality of features which are linked by the server system with at least one specification, regulation, and standard associated with each of the plurality of features; and

a server system for enabling a fabricator connected over a network to access the part design model;

said server system having a software component for presenting the part design model to the fabricator through the network using a graphical user interface, wherein said software component further provides for the fabricator to select a specific feature of the three-dimensional graphical depiction in order to view the specification, regulation, and standard associated with the selected feature.

33. The server-based system of claim 32, wherein the software component further permits the manipulation of the design model.

34. The server-based system of claim 33, wherein the manipulation comprises one or more of rotation, translation, two-dimensional cutting and a fly-through.

35. The server-based system of claim 32, wherein the server system is further adapted to permit the designer to review the accuracy of detailed instructions contained within the request for a proposal.

36. The server-based system of claim 32, wherein the proposal includes at least a portion of the design model.

37. The server-based system of claim 32, wherein the design model is stored in the memory at a time before submission of said proposal.

38. The server-based system of claim 32, wherein the software component further enables the fabricator and the designer to engage in a communications session that is substantially real-time.

39. The server-based system of claim 38, wherein the communications session comprises one or more of audio and video.

40. The server-based system of claim 38, wherein the communications session comprises the simultaneous presentation of the design model to the fabricator and the designer.

41. The server-based system of claim 38, wherein the simultaneous presentation includes the manipulation of the design model.--